

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

ORDER

Case No. 02-CR-606 (FB)(ASC)

-against-

PETER GOTTI, ANTHONY CICCONE, also
known as "Sonny," RICHARD V. GOTTI,
PRIMO CASSARINO, JEROME BRANCATO,
also known as "Jerry," RICHARD G. GOTTI,
PETER PIACENTI, also known as "Pete 17,"
RICHARD BONDI, FRANK SCOLLO, also
known as "Red" and "the little guy,"
VINCENT NASSO, also known as "Dr. Nasso,"
JULIUS NASSO, also known as "Jules,"
ANTHONY PANSINI, SALVATORE
CANNATA, ANNA EYLENKRIG, THOMAS
LISI, CARMINE MALARA and JEROME
ORSINO, JR.,

Defendants.

Appearances:

For the Government:

ROSLYNN R. MAUSKOPFF, Esq.

United States Attorney for the Eastern
District of New York

by: KATYA JESTIN, Esq.

Assistant United States Attorney

RICK WHELAN, Esq.

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Attorney

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For Defendant Jerome Brancato:

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For Defendant Primo Cassarino:

RICHARD WARE LEVITT, Esq.

148 East 78th Street

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For Defendant Anthony Ciccone:
GEORGE SANTANGELO, Esq.
75 Maiden Lane
Suite 504
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For Defendant Peter Gotti
GERALD SHARGEL, Esq.
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For Defendant Richard G. Gotti
JOSEPH COROZZO, JR., Esq.
260 Madison Avenue
New York, NY 10016

For Defendant Richard V. Gotti
HARRY BATCHELDER, Esq.
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New York, NY 10038

BLOCK, District Judge:

Subsequent to the commencement of the sentencing proceeding of Peter Gotti on March 26, 2004, the Court was inundated with requests from the press to make publicly available the letters the Court had received regarding that sentencing. Because of the importance of the First Amendment and common law rights of access to judicial documents and the scarcity of judicial opinions applying these rights to sentencing letters, the Court will hold a hearing on Thursday, May 27th, at 3 p.m. to address whether it should docket the letters and authorize their public disclosure. In addition to the parties, the Court will permit an attorney representing the interests of the press to be heard in

respect to this matter and to address the overarching issue as to when, if at all, sentencing letters sent to the Court should be made public. If the press wishes to be heard through counsel, its designated attorney should contact the Court at the earliest opportunity.

SO ORDERED.

FREDERIC BLOCK
United States District Judge

Brooklyn, New York
May 20 , 2004